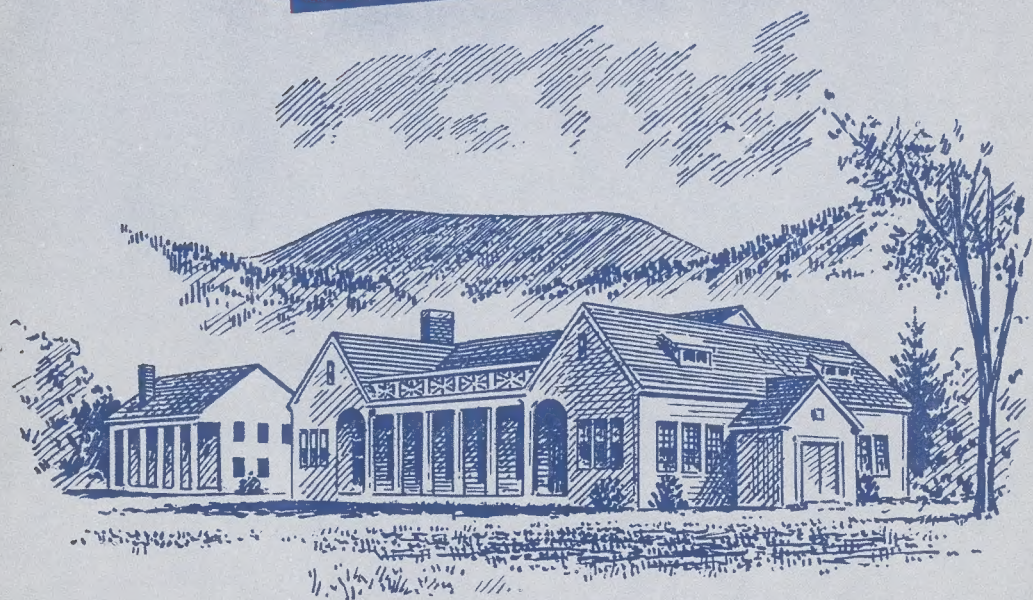


MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

**BREAD LOAF
WRITERS
CONFERENCE**



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT · APRIL 1954

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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STEPHEN A. FREEMAN, Vice-President of Middlebury College
and Director of the Language Schools

THEODORE MORRISON, Director of the Writers' Conference

RICHARD L. BROWN, Assistant Director of the Writers' Conference

MARGARET L. HOPKINS, Secretary of the Language Schools

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BRING
OUR
RECORDS
UP-TO-DATE**

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Writers' Conference

at Bread Loaf

August 18–September 1, 1954

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Writers learn, or some writers do. A good writer at the summit of his mature skill can do what he was quite unable to do as an apprentice. He has learned something somehow. The question is, can any planned course or program advance this learning process? Certainly no course can provide talent where it is lacking; certainly achievement is not the simple result of any teachable formula; certainly no sure protection can be offered against disappointment. Yet it would be strange if writers had nothing to gain by trying out their work on knowledgeable readers, by intensive shop-talk, by inquiring into the technical lore and empirical wisdom that those who live by printer's ink have found productive. In such joint discussion, the experienced writer finds the pleasure of recognition and sharpened consciousness of the problems of his craft, and the inexperienced writer finds himself introduced to the recognitions he will need if he is to work his way to his own highest possible distinction.

Such opportunities for learning are what we try to provide at Bread Loaf. In more than twenty-five years of operation, with considerable continuity of staff, we feel that we have learned much ourselves, and that we can offer our jointly-acquired experience with the belief that it is relevant to the needs of those who want to turn words into effective truth or insight. But we have always asked "the mountain" to do more than provide a favorable climate for professional discussion. It has done that, but it has also proved itself a place where the human resources of the writer are enlarged, where spirits are refreshed and minds strengthened by the pursuit of a loved craft in surroundings that people do not forget when the time comes to take leave.

—THEODORE MORRISON



STAFF, 1953

First row: *Willie Ley, Fletcher Pratt, Rowland Sturges*

Second row: *Mrs. Fletcher Pratt, Mrs. William Sloane, Robert Frost, Mrs. Theodore Morrison, Theodore Morrison, John Ciardi*

Rear row: *William Sloane, Lincoln Barnett, Rachel Mackenzie, May Sarton, Richard Brown, Eric Swenson*

The Staff

In Fiction

SAUL BELLOW, novelist and short story writer, author of *Dangling Man*, *The Victim*, and *The Adventures of Augie March*, winner of the National Book Award in the novel for 1954.

RACHEL MACKENZIE, short story writer, contributor of stories to *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *Woman's Day*, *Good Housekeeping*, etc., and experienced teacher of writers.

WILLIAM SLOANE, author of *The Edge of Running Water*, etc., Trade Editor, Funk & Wagnalls Co., a widely experienced publisher with imaginative interest in the concerns of writers.

ERIC SWENSON, Trade Editor, W. W. Norton & Co., author of a life of Captain Cook, contributor to *Harper's* and *Reader's Digest*, a publisher's editor with insight into writers' problems.

In Non-Fiction

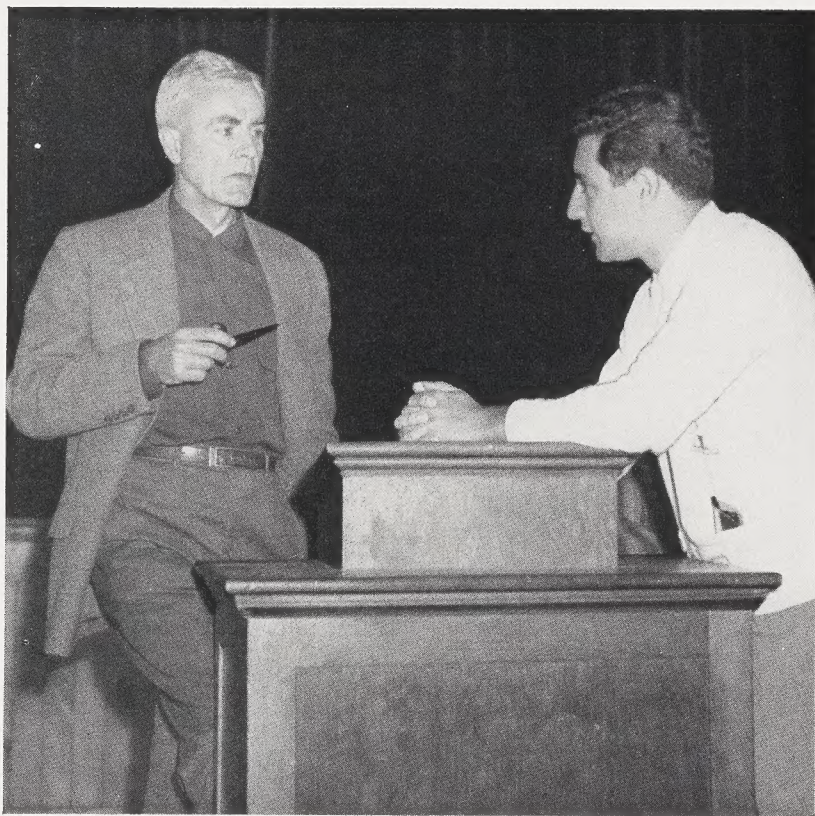
FLETCHER PRATT, historian and biographer, article and science-fiction writer, whose versatile interests have led him into nearly every field of professional writing. A few of his many non-fiction books are: *War for the World*; *The Monitor and the Merrimac*; *Short History of the Civil War*; *Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of State*.

LOUIS M. LYONS, Curator of the Nieman Fellowships at Harvard University, editor of Nieman Reports, daily news commentator on WGBH of Boston, formerly of the editorial staff of the *Boston Globe*.

In Poetry

JOHN CIARDI, poet, anthologist, teacher, Executive Editor of Twayne Publishers, Inc., author of *Live Another Day* and other volumes of poetry, a writer and friend of poetry and today's poets.

RICHARD WILBUR, poet and teacher, contributor to many magazines, winner of the Harriet Monroe and Blumenthal Prizes, author of two books of poetry, *The Beautiful Changes* and *Ceremony*, recently Guggenheim Fellow in poetry.



After a lecture: Mr. Morrison chats with a member

Evening Program

Besides talks by members of the regular staff, evening programs will include:

A reading by ROBERT FROST.

A talk by LINCOLN BARNETT, author of *The Universe and Dr. Einstein*, *Writing on Life*, and of the current *Life Magazine* series, *The World We Live In*.

A talk by WILLIE LEY, author of *The Lung Fish and the Unicorn* and *Rockets, Missiles and Space Travel*.

Music by ROWLAND STURGES, concert pianist, teacher of the piano

in Cambridge and Boston, who has given concerts in many American cities and in Brazil.

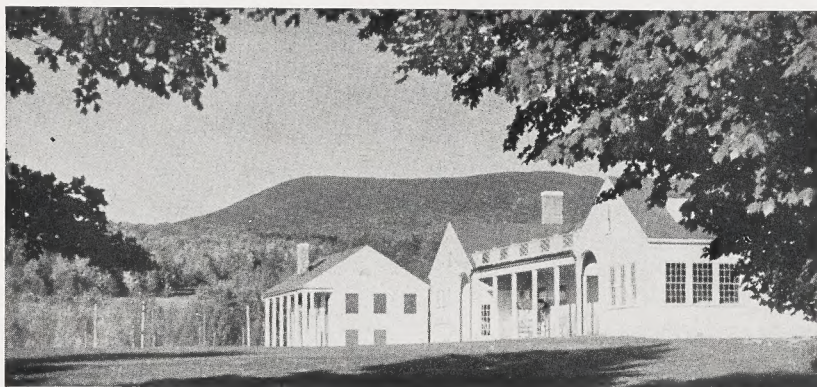
Administration

THEODORE MORRISON, teacher of writing courses at Harvard, poet and novelist, author of many books, including *The Dream of Alcegis*, *The Portable Chaucer* and *The Stones of the House*, is Director of the Conference.

He is assisted by RICHARD L. BROWN, English Department, Middlebury College, who has special charge of admissions.

Life at Bread Loaf

Plan of the Day Morning sessions of the Conference begin at 9:00 or 9:30 and continue, with brief interludes, until shortly before lunch. A session after lunch is customary on weekdays except Saturdays. An evening lecture or entertainment is customary every day except Sundays, which are left free. During the first week, morning and afternoon sessions are largely devoted to talks by staff members on the technique of the main forms of writing. During the second week, sessions are for the most part discussions of manuscripts submitted by contributing members. Individual interviews for criticism are mainly concentrated during the second week. The Conference aims at a balance between work and time for recreation and for making acquaintance both with people and with the country.



Library and Little Theater



PHOTO, SPRAGUE HOLDEN

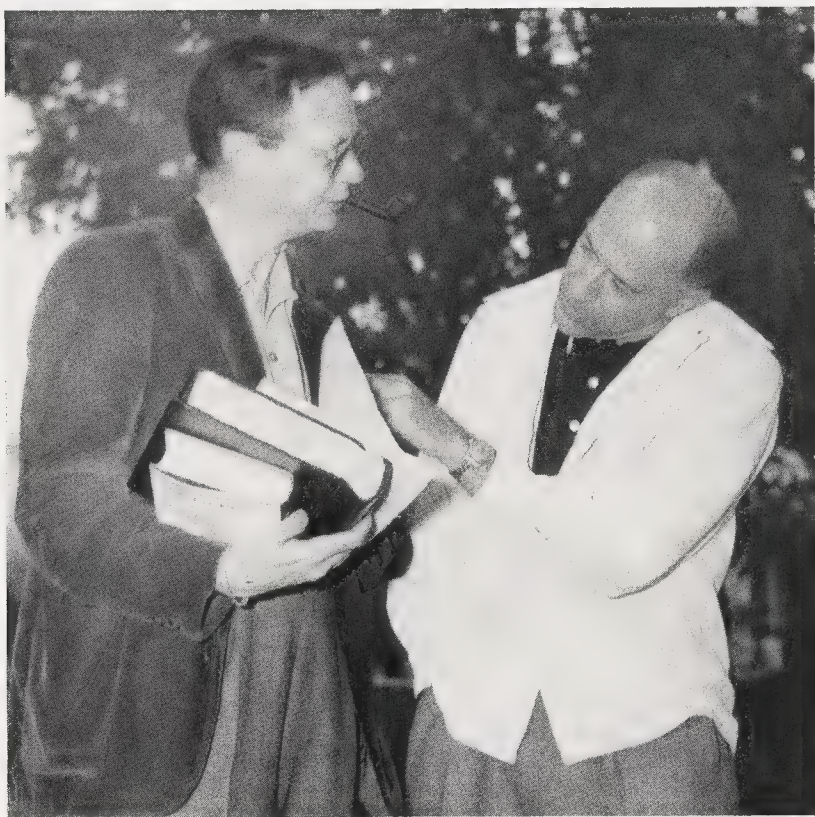
Frank O'Connor conducts an extracurricular interview

All attendance at sessions is, of course, purely voluntary. The schedule is so arranged that members can attend all of the extensive discussion program if they wish.

Meals Meals are served at stated hours in the dining room of the Inn, which is operated and staffed by Middlebury College. The Conference has a club room where late breakfasts and afternoon and evening snacks may be obtained for a small charge.

Services Bread Loaf has a summer post office. Members of the Conference should instruct correspondents to address them at Bread Loaf, Vermont. Taxi service is maintained to Middlebury, twelve miles away, where drugstores, banks, etc., are available.

Clothes and Climate The Conference session usually includes both warm, and cool to sharp weather. Members should come prepared for



William Sloane and Lincoln Barnett consult over a manuscript





both. Informal dress is always appropriate, but dinner dresses are also appropriate on some occasions for those who wish to bring them.

Recreation Tennis, lawn games, and walks in the woods and mountains are available at or immediately about Bread Loaf. Horseback riding can usually be arranged for. Swimming in streams or at Lake Dunmore is at reasonable driving distance.

Note It will be appreciated if members do not bring radios. Dogs are not allowed in the dormitories. An outdoor parking space for automobiles is provided free of charge.

The History of Bread Loaf

Bread Loaf Inn was opened as a hotel in the 1860's by Joseph Battell, who wrote books, bred Morgan horses and kept the Morgan stallion register, and believed in the preservation of forests. He acquired over thirty thousand acres of forest lands, and left this property, with the Inn, to Middlebury College as his residuary legatee. Most of the forest is now national park; the Inn is no longer a public hotel, but the living quarters of two of the Middlebury College Summer Schools, the Bread Loaf School of English in the early summer and the Writers' Conference during the last two weeks of August.

The Conference began in 1926 under the direction of John Farrar, who was succeeded in 1929 by Robert M. Gay. Theodore Morrison has been Director since 1932. The plan owes its origin to Mr. Farrar, then editor of the *Bookman*, who founded the Writers' Conference and directed its first three sessions. Another major force in creating and sustaining Bread Loaf, has been Robert Frost, who has been with the Conference from the beginning and continues to extend its dimension of height and depth today. Perhaps the most tangible evidence of its increasing usefulness has been the extent to which, in recent years, publishers, visiting writers, members of the Conference itself, and members of the staff have offered fellowships to Bread Loaf, believing that it has something to contribute to the writing of the future.

Classes of Membership

1. Contributors

Those who wish to bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf for criticism by the staff should apply for admission as Contributors. Contributors

are asked to submit, at the time of application, examples of the kind or kinds of writing of which they will later expect criticism at Bread Loaf.

2. *Auditors*

Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as Auditors.

Auditors may attend all lectures and participate in all open discussions. They may not submit manuscripts for staff criticism; otherwise their privileges are in no way different from those of Contributors.

Admission

Both Contributors and Auditors are subject to selection. The basis of admission for Contributors will be the examples of their work they submit with their applications. First choice will be given to those who, in the judgment of a preliminary reader, show professional promise. But inexperienced or beginning writers will be admitted if the preliminary reader considers that they are likely to profit by the criticism of the staff. The basis of admission for Auditors will be any evidence the applicant offers of serious literary interest, such as published work or active concern with writing or teaching.

Application Procedure

1. Write for an application blank to the Secretary of the Language Schools, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.
2. Return the filled-out application to Richard L. Brown, Assistant Director, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.
3. If you desire admission as a Contributor, forward to Mr. Brown examples of your published or unpublished work *at the same time that you return your application blank*. As much material may be submitted as you feel is necessary to represent fairly the range and quality of your work.

All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten, and will be returned only if accompanied by a reversible wrapper or self-addressed envelope and full postage or clear directions for return by express collect. A full and clear address should be written on all manuscripts as well as on all letters. Some time may pass before manuscripts can



Robert Frost at Bread Loaf

be returned, and it will therefore be an advantage to keep copies. The Conference assumes no responsibility for manuscripts lost in the mails or otherwise. All possible care will be taken to prevent such loss.

4. If you desire admission as an Auditor, return your application, without manuscript, to Richard L. Brown. Take care to indicate that you wish admission as an Auditor.

Applications will be accepted only from people who intend to be present for the whole session. No reduction of rates is offered for part-time attendance.

The restrictions of space at Bread Loaf, both in classrooms and living-quarters, make it impossible to accommodate friends or relatives of members. Attendance can be permitted *only* to regularly enrolled members.

Contributors should bring manuscripts in their hand luggage so that they may be submitted to the Director on registration day.

Fees

The administration reserves the right to make any changes without notice in courses, staff, living arrangements, etc. The following information about fees should be carefully noted:

1. For Contributors

The charges for Contributors, including board, room, and tuition for the entire term, are from \$160 to \$210, depending on the kind of room desired or available.

2. For Auditors

The corresponding charges for Auditors are from \$135 to \$185.

3. A nonrefundable registration fee of \$15 will be called for by the Secretary of the Language Schools at the time the applicant is notified that he has been accepted for membership. Rooms will be assigned only to those whose applications have been accepted and who have paid the registration fee. This fee will be credited against the applicant's total charges.

4. *Make all checks payable to Middlebury College.*



FELLOWS, 1953

From left to right: Noel Clad, Nathaniel Burt, Ruth Harnden, Edgar Rosenberg, Richard Kraus, Clay Putnam

5. Duly accepted members who have paid the registration fee will be considered, after arriving at Bread Loaf, to have contracted for board and tuition, and will be required to abide by this arrangement. The Conference, however, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.

Fellowships

The Conference offers a limited number of fellowships, paying all regular charges at Bread Loaf, but not travelling expenses. A committee of the Conference staff awards the fellowships, guided by the following policies:

1. Personal applications are not accepted.
2. To be considered for a fellowship, each candidate must be *nominated* by a magazine editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or college teacher. Nomination may be made informally in a letter to Richard L. Brown, Assistant Director, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.
3. Tangible achievement, such as published books or contributions to magazines, will be important evidence on a candidate's behalf. But it is also our purpose to discover when possible writers who may be expected to succeed professionally, but whose work is still in manuscript.
4. All nominations, together with supporting manuscripts or published work, should be in the Assistant Director's hands by May 15.

The Conference fellowship system began in 1934. A partial list of our fellows, with the firms or individuals that nominated them, includes: James Still (Viking Press); Robert Francis (Macmillan); Eudora Welty (Katherine Anne Porter); Carson McCullers (Houghton Mifflin); Dilys Bennett Laing (Duell, Sloan, and Pearce); A. B. Guthrie, Jr. (*Atlantic Monthly*); Esther Carlson (Paul Reynolds and Richard Wright); David Davidson (Random House); Robert Mende (Rinehart); Era Bell Thompson (*Negro Digest*); Doris Davis (William Sloane Associates); Hoke Norris (Lotos Club of New York); O. Williams Pierce (Doubleday); Eugenie Clark (*Harper's*);

Nathaniel Burt (Little, Brown & Co.); Clay Putnam (McGraw Hill & Co.)

Dates

The Conference begins with the noon meal on Wednesday, August 18. Registration will take place Wednesday afternoon, and the first formal meeting will be that evening.

The Conference ends with the noon meal after the final session on Wednesday morning, September 1. Lunch will be served at 11:30 for the convenience of those planning to take an afternoon bus.

Transportation

Middlebury is halfway between Burlington and Rutland, Vermont. Members not arriving by automobile will go via the New York Central to Albany, New York; or via the Boston and Maine to Bellows Falls, Vermont; or via the Vermont Central to Essex Junction (Burlington); and make bus connections on the Vermont Transit Lines to Middlebury. There is at present no railroad passenger service direct to Middlebury. Baggage should be sent by railway express.

For members arriving and leaving by bus, taxis will be available for the trip between Bread Loaf and Middlebury, the cost of the taxi fare divided among the occupants of the cab. Baggage which arrives on or before August 18 will be transported free of charge from Middlebury to Bread Loaf. Members traveling by bus should buy tickets for Middlebury, Vermont.

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*Announcing to Past and Prospective
Bread Loafers*

AMERICAN ACCENT: THE BREAD LOAF READER

Fourteen short stories by writers who have attended the Conference as staff members, fellows, or students

Wallace Stegner

A. B. Guthrie, Jr.

Jessamyn West

May Sarton

Warren Beck

Carson McCullers

Richard Wilbur

Josephine Johnson

James Still

Isaac Asimov

Miriam Rugel

Stanford Whitmore

Josephine Winn

Ruth Goodwin

Chosen and edited by Elizabeth Abell, former Fellow at the Conference, who supplies a commentary on Bread Loaf in the form of "Letters to a Young Writer." Preface by Theodore Morrison, Director.

To be published in May by Ballantine Books, Inc.

Copies at Thirty-Five Cents

